

Senator Sylvia Allen
Arizona State Senate
District 6



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Rural Affairs & Environment, Chairman
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Appropriations
Education

March 18, 2015

Arizona State Senate

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Drinking Water Protection Section, Mail Code WTR-3-2
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attention: Nancy Rumrill

Dear Ms. Rumrill,

I am submitting this letter in support of the Environmental Protection Agency Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class III Permit that Florence Copper, Inc. has applied for.

Florence Copper, Inc. is proposing to construct and operate an in-situ copper recovery facility in the Town of Florence. The previous property owner BHP conducted similar in-situ copper recovery on the site in 1997 – 1998. The proposed UIC permit would authorize Florence Copper, Inc. to operate a low profile and low impact Production Test Facility (PTF) on approximately two acres for a period of up to two years, followed by post-closure monitoring of up to five years following closure operations.

Issuance of the UIC permit will allow Florence Copper, Inc. to operate the PTF, and demonstrate that they can operate safely and without harming the Town's drinking water supplies.

Once Florence Copper, Inc. conducts a successful PTF, the potential of a full-scale operation would provide much needed employment and economic benefit to the local communities. The anticipated employment impact is 240 direct and indirect jobs on-site, 480 jobs in Pinal County and nearly 800 jobs in Arizona. These head-of-household wage jobs, provided by the mining industry are particularly important to rural Arizona. The projected fiscal benefit of \$68 million dollars in revenue to the Town of Florence, \$2 billion in economic activity for Pinal County and \$3.4 billion in economic activity for the State of Arizona, would provide much needed revenue to the Town, County and State.

For these reasons, I support the issuance of the EPA Underground Injection Control Class III Permit to Florence Copper, Inc. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sylvia Allen".

Senator Sylvia Allen
Legislative District 6